

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 100930Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8469

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL UWE KUWAIT 0097

BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: CODEL ABOUREZK VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 0071

SUMMARY: SENATOR ABOUREZK AND PARTY HAD SHORT BUT USEFUL VISIT TO KUWAIT JAN 7. SENATOR MET TOP KUWAITI KOFFICIALS AND INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN PROSPECTS FOR LIFTING OIL EMBARGO OF US AND HOLLAND AND FOR MIDEAST SETTLEMENT; HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR BETTER ARAB PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT IN US. SENATOR RECEIVED STANDARD ARAB RESPONSES AND NO RPT NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED OR PRODUCTION CUTS RESTORED BEFORE SATISFACTORY ARAB-ISRAELI AGREEMENT REACHED. END SUMMARY

1. DURING 23-HOUR VISIT TO KUWAIT, JAN 7-8, SENATOR ABOUREZK MET WITH AMIR AND OTHER TOP KUWAITI OFFICIALS. SENATOR WAS MOST INTERESTED IN PROSPECTS FOR REGULARIZATION ME OIL FLOW TO US, BUT HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN KUWAITI ATTITUDES TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT AND PALESTINIAN ISSUES. SENATOR TOLD PRESS THAT VISIT STRENGTHENED HIS BELIEF IN FUNDAMENTAL SOLIDARTIY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KUWAITI-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND SAID HE EXPECTED CURRENT PROBLEMS

TO BE SOLVED AND HARMONY RESTORED. HE SAID HE SHARED KUWAITI VIEW (SIC)

THAT MIDDLE EAST TURMOIL MUST BE BROUGHT TO END ALONG LINES UNSC RES 242 AND ADDED THAT NO VIABLE SOLUTION CAN IGNORE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. A MAIN THEME SENATOR REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES WAS THAT ARABS HAD NOT DONE ADEQUATE PUBLIC RELATIONS JOB IN US AND THAT BETTER JOB OF EDUCATING US PUBLIC WOULD HELP HIM AND OTHERS WHO BELIEVE AMERICAN INTERESTS BEST SERVED IN MIDDLE EAST BY MORE SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD ARABS.

2. IN RELAXED, FRIENDLY MEETINGS WITH AMIR, FONMIN, OAPEC SECGEN, AND OTHERS, SENATOR WAS GIVEN STANDARD ARAB VIEWS. WAS CLEAR FROM TALKS HERE THAT ARABS AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME ABOUREZK, AS ARAB-AMERICAN, SYMPATHETIC TO ARAB CAUSE AND THEREFORE DOES NOT RPT NOT NEED TO BE SUBJECTED TO DETAILED LECTURES ON ARAB VIEWPOINTS.

3. KUWAIT NATIONAL PETROLEUM CO. CHAIRMAN ASSERTED TO SENATOR THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO CHANCE LIFTING PRODUCTION CUTS UNTIL 1967 OCCUPIED TERRITORIES RESTORED AND PALESTINIANS MORE OR LESS SATISFIED. WAS INTERESTING CHAIRMAN MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN US/HOLLAND EMBARGO AND PRODUCTION CUTS IN FOLLOWING TERMS: "NO LIFTING OF EMBARGO UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED, AND NO LIFTING OF PRODUCTION CUTS UNTIL AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTED." OTHER KUWAITI LEADERS WERE FAR LESS SPECIFIC ON WHEN AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED AND CUTS RESTORED.

4. COMMENT: CODEL WAS DELAYED 7 HOURS BY BAD WEATHER IN IRAQ BUT HAD TO DEPART ON SCHEDULE TO KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH KING FAISAL IN JIDDA JAN 9. IF CODEL HAD BEEN ABLE REMAIN EXTRA DAY TO ACCEPT FONMIN'S INVITATION TO LUNCHEON AT LAST MINUTE OR HAD SCHEDULED LONGER TIME IN KUWAIT BELIEVE VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE WORTH-WHILE.
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